

MIKE'S Tool Box

Mike Forner's Home Services:

**MY MISSION IS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR YOU
AND YOUR FAMILY BY PROVIDING PROMPT,
COMPREHENSIVE, EXPERT HOME MAINTENANCE AND
REPAIRS. I WILL TREAT YOUR HOME AS IF IT WERE MY OWN!**



A Guide To Avoiding Household Electricity Hazards

Electricity is a power source we rely on, day after day. This essential component of our homes, however, poses a hazard -- electrical shock.

While most of us take electricity for granted, because it can't be seen or smelled, coming in contact with electricity can be dangerous and even deadly. Electrical shocks can knock you unconscious, cause deep tissue burns, and stop your breathing and heartbeat. Take the proper precautions with electricity, and you will reap the benefits without the dangers.

- Put safety plugs over all electrical outlets to prevent children from sticking screwdrivers, nails, pins, or other metal objects into them.
- Never use electrical appliances such as radios or hair dryers near a filled bathtub or sink.
- Never touch anything electrical with wet hands or while standing in water.
- Don't run extension cords under the rug or carpet. The wires can quickly become frayed or broken from people walking on them, causing shocks and fires.
- Always turn off the circuit breaker before changing a light bulb that has broken off from its base or before making any electrical repairs.
- Do not talk on the phone, take a bath, or use electric appliances during a lightning storm. The electrical charge can come in through the water pipes or telephone wires.



- Never touch someone who has been electrocuted without first shutting off the power source or moving them away from it with a nonmetal object, such as a wooden broom handle. The current could pass through the individual's body and shock you.

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Stay tuned for next month's front-page article on deck inspection tips for a safe summer.

Upcoming Events In June That Might Interest You...



* Ann Arbor Summer Festival from June 13 – July 6, 2014. It is a festival of ticketed performances of music, dance, comedy, and theater by national and international artists at various campus and downtown venues.

Also, **Top of the Park**, a nightly series of free outdoor concerts, movies, and family activities at Ingalls Mall on North University (except Mon). Please visit: a2sf.org for more info.

* Flag Day is Saturday, June 14th.



* Father's Day is Sunday, June 15th

* Summer Solstice is Saturday, June 21st.



* The Ann Arbor Farmers Market is in the heart of the historic Kerrytown neighborhood of Ann Arbor. In operation for more than 90 years, the Wednesday and Saturday daytime markets offer an incredible diversity of products, bringing together farmers, plant nurseries, artisans, food carts, and a variety of prepared food vendors.

Hours

January - April, Saturday | 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
May - December, Wednesday & Saturday | 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

June - October, Wednesday Evening Market | 4 to 8 p.m.

A Guide To Avoiding Household Fire Hazards

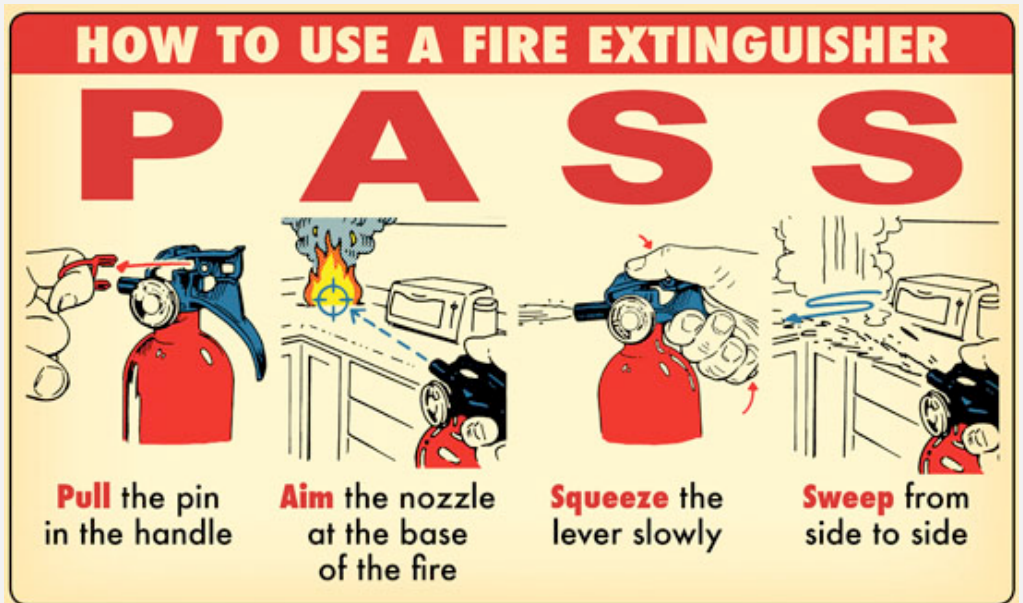
If you have ever witnessed a fire, you know the devastation it can cause. Learn how to prevent a fire from happening in your home by reading these safety tips.

According to the CDC, four out of five deaths resulting from a fire happen in the home. According to the National Safety Council, most of these deaths could be avoided if smoke detectors were properly installed and regularly maintained in the kitchen, stairwells, and near or in each bedroom. Check the batteries at least yearly to make sure they work.

The American Red Cross reports that 80 percent of all deaths due to fire take place when the family is sleeping. The cause is not the fire itself, but rather smoke inhalation and lack of oxygen. In addition, the fire may trigger the release of poisonous chemicals in upholstery, plastic material, and draperies.

No matter what the construction, no house is completely fireproof, but you can do a great deal to prevent home fires:

- If there are children in the home, lock up matches and cigarette lighters.
- Don't hang potholders or dishtowels over the burners on the stove. Store them away from the stovetop.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Never leave home or go to bed with your Christmas tree lights on.
- Never use a higher watt light bulb than the lamp manufacturer suggests.
- Use salt or soda to put out a grease fire in your kitchen; never throw water on it.
- Have an established family escape route and have fire drills. If your house has more than one story, keep a fire safety ladder under each bed if practical. Plan ahead where you'll all meet outside.
- Teach your family the American Red Cross rule if their clothes ever catch on fire: Stop running, Drop to the ground, and Roll over to put out the flames.
- Keep papers, curtains, and other flammable material away from hot radiators, portable heaters, and lighted fireplaces.
- Make sure that your child's sleepwear is flame resistant, and wash it according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Be very careful with portable kerosene heaters. Use them only when you are in the room; turn them off any time you leave the room.
- For homes with children, put up guards around space heaters, fireplaces, and wood-burning stoves.
- Don't overload circuits by putting too many plugs in an outlet or using improper extension cords.
- For lamps or small appliances, don't use extension cords that dangle and can be pulled. Children can pull the appliance down and injure themselves as well as start a fire.
- Don't let your children play with firecrackers or any type of explosives.
- Buy fire extinguishers, and learn how to use them. Place them where they are most likely to be needed, such as the kitchen. Check periodically to be sure they are in good working order.





The Extra Mile

By: Jay Payleitner, St. Charles, Illinois

Near midnight. My wife and I were driving home from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where our son Randy was a junior English major. Rita was asleep in the passenger seat. I headed north, wondering what on earth had possessed us to take the afternoon off to make the trek to campus and back, a six-hour round trip slogging through the towns dotting Highway 47. All for nothing.

For weeks Randy had been telling me how much fun he was having playing intramural coed flag football. Maybe it was his talk of diving catches and trick plays, but I'd felt this sudden urge to cheer him on, like we had in high school. Just several hours earlier Rita and I had met him at the field. It was a crisp fall evening—perfect football weather. I was pumped. Randy introduced us to his teammates. “You really came all this way just to see us?” they asked incredulously.

The cheering section consisted of Rita, me and an injured player on crutches. But we didn't mind. We watched the kids stretch and warm up, run through some drills and then...there was some sort of delay. Randy ran over. “The other team had to forfeit,” he said. “They don't have

enough players.” I tried to hide my disappointment. No big deal. Unless you'd just driven three hours to get here. We took Randy out for pie and coffee. Nice, but I'd had my heart set on seeing him in action. I'd wanted to cheer for my son.

Now, slowing the car to a crawl through the town of Yorkville, I couldn't help thinking that the whole idea had been foolish. I was behind on work. I really needed to clean out the garage. I thought of all the T-ball games and soccer matches, band concerts and science fairs I'd gone to over the years for our five children. Once Rita and I even snuck into Randy's English class to see him perform in a skit. We had been the only parents there that day too. I'd worked hard to be a supportive dad, but was I trying *too* hard?

Ahead I saw a bridge crossing over the Fox River. A distant memory stirred...from back when I was a Boy Scout. Every fall our troop made a two-day, 40-mile canoe journey down the Fox. There was one year I would never forget. My dad dropped my brother Mark and me at the launch, made sure our life vests were snug and said goodbye as our flotilla set off. I plunged my paddle into the water and pulled hard, then lifted and stroked again. Mark, in front, did the same. Before long we had a good rhythm going. *I wish Dad could see us*, I thought.

About a mile downriver we came to a bridge. I looked up and there he was. Dad, standing right in the middle of the span. He didn't shout instructions or do anything embarrassing. He simply waved until we passed underneath. I looked back and he was gone. Huh? Was I just imagining him? But several miles later, at the next overpass, there he was again. And the one after that. And the next. It turned into a game. The whole troop began looking for him. Every time we rounded a bend that day someone would shout, “There's Mr. Payleitner!” All the boys were waving now, but no one was happier to see him than I was. My dad had taken a chance and literally gone the extra mile (and then some) to show us his love. All these years later it had never left me.

Now I drove across the bridge in the darkness. I imagined Dad standing there, waving, still encouraging me. It made me think of a nightly prayer I'd said when the kids were younger, asking God to help me be the kind of dad my kids need. At last I understood the most important thing I could do for my children—just be there, even if it meant going the extra mile, the way my dad did for me, cheering me on.

Happy Father's Day!!!!



Key Lime Pie Recipe



Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups graham-cracker crumbs
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled
- 5 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 cup freshly squeezed key-lime juice
- 1 tablespoon grated Key lime zest, plus more for garnish
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream, chilled
- 1 can (14 ounces) can sweetened condensed milk
- 4 large egg yolks

Directions:

Step 1: Heat oven to 375 degrees. Combine graham-cracker crumbs, butter, and 3 tablespoons sugar in a medium bowl; mix well. Press into a 9-inch pie plate, and bake until lightly browned, about 12 minutes. Remove from oven, and transfer to a wire rack until completely cooled.

Step 2: Lower oven to 325 degrees. In a medium bowl, gently whisk together condensed milk, egg yolks, Key lime juice, and zest. Pour into the prepared, cooled crust.

Step 3: Return pie to oven, and bake until the center is set but still quivers when the pan is nudged, 15 to 17 minutes. Let cool completely on a wire rack.

Step 4: Shortly before serving, combine cream and remaining 2 tablespoons sugar in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a whisk attachment. Whisk on medium speed until soft peaks form, 2 to 3 minutes. Spoon over cooled pie; garnish with zest. Serve immediately.

THE PLATINUM RULE

By Dr. Tony Alessandra

Thinkers

Thinkers are analytical, persistent, systematic people who enjoy problem solving. Thinkers are detail-oriented, which makes them more concerned with content than style. Thinkers are task-oriented people who enjoy perfecting processes and working toward tangible results. They're always in control of their emotions and may become uncomfortable around people who very out-going, e.g., Socializers.

Thinkers have high expectations of themselves and others, which can make them over-critical. Their tendency toward perfectionism-taken to an extreme-can cause "paralysis by over-analysis." Thinkers are slow and deliberate decision-makers. They do research, make comparisons, determine risks, calculate margins of error, and then take action. Thinkers become irritated by surprises and glitches, hence their cautious decision-making. Thinkers are also skeptical, so they like to see promises in writing.

Relaters

Relaters are warm and nurturing individuals. They are the most people-oriented of the four styles. Relaters are excellent listeners, devoted friends, and loyal employees. Their relaxed disposition makes them approachable and warm. They develop strong networks of people who are willing to be mutually supportive and reliable. Relaters are excellent team players.

Relaters are risk-averse. In fact, Relaters may tolerate unpleasant environments rather than risk change. They like the status quo and become distressed when disruptions are severe. When faced with change, they think it through, plan, and accept it into their world. Relaters-more than the other types-strive to maintain personal composure, stability, and balance.

In the office, Relaters are courteous, friendly, and willing to share responsibilities. They are good planners, persistent workers, and good with follow-through.

Relaters go along with others even when they do not agree because they do not want to rock the boat.

Stay tuned for more next month...



Wise Home Owner Tip:

Home Security Tips

Keeping you and your family safety is a big deal. But sometimes, it's the little changes you make that add up to a big difference. We've collected these residential security tips to help every member of the family feel safe and secure.

Here are 10 home security tips to help you and your family stay safe:

1. Inspect smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for dust and lint build up that can hinder sensors.
2. Never put directions on your car's GPS to your exact location use the nearest cross street. A car thief doesn't need to know which house is yours.
3. If possible, install a locked mailbox at your home and never put outgoing mail containing personal information in an unsecured out-box or in your mailbox for pick up.
4. To help prevent tipping off burglars, if you plan to be away from home for an extended period of time, set your phone ringer to the lowest volume.
5. Never leave notes on your door for service people or visitors when you are not home. It's a signal to burglars that the home is empty.
6. Do not use indoor extension cords outdoors. A safe outdoor cord will read "Suitable for Use with Outdoor Appliances."
7. If your power goes out, a full freezer can hold food safely for up to 48 hours.
8. It is recommended to have interconnected smoke alarms. These alarms are linked together; if one alarm is triggered they all go off.
9. Never attempt to charge non-rechargeable batteries. Attempting to recharge non-rechargeable batteries could cause the batteries to explode.
10. Oily rags can easily combust, even without being exposed directly to a flame. Hang them outside to dry, and then throw them away in a metal can with a lid when finished.

Please Don't Hesitate to Contact Us At:

P: (734) 340-3688

F: (734) 527-6061

E-Mail: mike@mikefornerhomeservices.com

Did You Know...

That WD-40 can keep wasps from building nests? Don't let yellow jackets and other wasps ruin your spring and summer fun. Their favorite place to build nests is under eaves. Just mist some WD-40 under all the eaves of your house. It will block the wasps from building their nests there.

Uplifting Quote of The Month

"I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father's protection."

~ Sigmund Freud

Joke Of The Month

My 16-year-old brother, Ryan, was out late with friends one night. Suddenly he realized it was Father's Day and he had neglected to buy a card for our dad. After much searching, Ryan located an open store, but was disappointed to find only two cards left on a picked-over rack. Selecting one, he brought it home and, somewhat sheepishly, presented it to our father.

Upon opening it, Dad read this message: "You've been like a father to me." He looked at Ryan, puzzled.

"Well, Dad," Ryan tried to explain, "it was either that or the card that said, 'Now that I'm a father too!'"